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**KanYe West**

Many people portray rappers as men with baggie jeans and tattoos, who rap only about violence, women, and drugs, but Kanye West has definitely broken the stereotypical rapper image. West has introduced us to a completely new side of rap that has never been exposed of or heard of to the public. He brings us creative and sensational beats that take us to a whole new dimension. West is known for his unique style, open-minded opinions, outstanding beats, a personality full of confidence, and hard hitting music, all which make him the person he is known for. His music appeals to many people, even those who do not listen to rap. West is not scared to take hip hop to the next level, and surprise everyone by crossing boundaries. This eventually led to his superstardom on “Kanye’s” own terms.

Kanye Omari West was born on June 8th, 1977 in Atlanta, Georgia, where he lived with both parents, Ray West and Donda West. At age three, his parents divorced and therefore West moved with his mother to Chicago, Illinois. Years later, West attended Chicago State University which he later dropped out of due to poor grades and his interest in music. He gradually gained fame from producing hit songs for well known artists, which include Jay-Z, The Game, Alicia Keys, Common, John Legend, Janet Jackson, and many more.

Kanye was more famous for his phenomenal beat making. After years of trying to become more than just a producer, Kanye finally released his first debut album, The College Dropout in 2004. In this album included my personally favorite song, “Through the Wire”. Kanye’s inspiration for this song was of his near death car accident he had in October 23, 2002. In result of this accident Kanye’s mouth was wired shut due to his jaw being broken. But this did not stop him from rapping, which I admire him for doing since not anyone can pull this off. This shows a lot of passion he has towards the music he makes for us to listen to and become inspired by it. Even the lyrics of this song were amazing to me; you get these chills down your spine hearing him rap literally “Through the Wire”. He later won any Grammy’s for this album and songs as well.

“Through the fire, to the limit, to the wall  
For a chance to be with you, I'd gladly risk it all  
Through the fire, through whatever come what may  
For a chance at loving you, I'd take it all away  
Right down through the wire, even through the fire  
  
I spit it through the wire man  
To much stuff on my heart right now man  
I'll gladly risk it all right now  
It's a life or death situation man  
Y'all don't really understand how I feel right now man  
It's your boy Kanye to the....  
Chi-Town what's going on man”

-Kanye West “Through the Wire”

 The most infamous words out of Kanye West were “George Bush does not care about black people”[[1]](#footnote-2) on September 2, 2005 during a benefit concert for Hurricane Katrina relief on NBC Live TV. This was definitely a jaw opener for everyone. No one in their right minds would think someone would say that on live television. But of course someone had to say it and only Kanye, being the outspoken person he is, was the person to say it. The majority of the people were happy he said it because it was about time people heard the reality of what was going on, instead of just sugar coating everything. Minorities felt relatable to the statement because this was their lives destroyed and no one was doing anything to help them.

 Controversy arose to Kanye West when he posed as Jesus, with a torn crown and blood on his face, in The Rolling Stone Magazine on January 24, 2006. This came to shock and surprise to many people, while others took it offensive. People against this said he has overdone it and “it was wrong of him to pose as the Savior of Mankind”[[2]](#footnote-3). But other people didn’t see anything bad about it. They know where West is coming from, and understand that he didn’t do this in a bad way. He is just a risk taker and indeed believes God has played an important role of his life and wanted to show it. I believe the picture symbolizes the sacrifice Jesus made by taking his own life so that everyone else’s sins could be forgiven, and Kanye portrays this metaphorically in his music. West has said he believes it was “Gods faith he is still alive”[[3]](#footnote-4) after the traumatic car accident he was in. The majority of his music has mentioned his faith in God, which became apparent in his song “Jesus Walks”. Kanye indeed shattered the stereotypes some people still had that idea that rappers can’t rap about Jesus only about sex, drugs, and violence with this song. West says he “throws up historical subjects in a way that makes kids want to learn about them” and also continues by saying, “[I’m] definitely in the history books already”[[4]](#footnote-5).

*“God show me the way because the devils*

*trying to break me down”*

*-Kanye West in Jesus Walks*

Kanye West is indeed has an extraordinary musical talent who has an immense passion as a hip-hop artist. Although Kanye has only released three albums (and one on its way), he has already inspired tremendously a vast amount of people in the world with his unforgettable lyrics, unique beats, and outspoken mouth. In the past four years, he has delivered theatrical videos, and mouthing of whatever happens to cross his mind. No matter who you are or where you come from, you have heard of Kanye West one way or another. His goal is “to have songs that are respected across the board, to have some sort of influence on the culture and to change the sound of music and inspire up-and-coming artist to go against the grain”[[5]](#footnote-6), and so far he has accomplished this. At this point, he has made all this music relatable to the public which makes his music much more powerful than others. He will continue to make spectacular music and be the creative and open-minded person he is. That why I admire him the most, for being real and not being afraid to speak the truth about society, all which ultimately make him the infamous Kanye West.



1. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/03/AR2005090300165.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Chrisitanmusic.about.com [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleane/2006/ent/ent3.html [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Http://www.thestateofhiphop.com/rap-lyrics-kanyewest.html [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. www.rollingstone.com/news/story/9183008/kanye\_west\_world [↑](#footnote-ref-6)